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September 30, 1940.

To the Editor:—I am writing concerning the problem of a dietitian who has become interested in food allergy. She, herself, had a chronic symptomatology which was cleared by the elimination of a number of foods to which marked allergy occurred. She then began to work on some of her own family and gradually on friends, and during the last year or so, various other people in her community have been coming to her through her solicitations. Some of these patients have been sent by her to their physicians, but many of the patients have come to her independently and, as I understand it, have presented their problems to her for therapeutic advice. She has decided on her own part, without medical confirmation, that many of these individuals are suffering from food sensitization, and she has manipulated their diets, oftentimes with very definite benefit to the patients.

I have told her that I feel that she is practicing medicine and taking unwarranted responsibility in the diagnosis and advice which she has been giving these individuals. *I want to know if she is justified by law in doing this type of work which I have described, and whether she would be liable to prosecution or fine.*

On her part she feels that she has had considerable training in dietetic work, having specialized in this field when she was in the University, and she feels it is justifiable for her to give patients counsel in regard to the diets which are indicated. This is done, however, as I have already stated, without any medical supervision. Your opinion concerning this dietitian's activities would be greatly appreciated.

With kindest regards, I am

Most sincerely yours,

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF

PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL STANDARDS

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

San Francisco, Calif.

October 8, 1940

Yours of October 4

Re: Dietetics.

California Medical Association
George H. Kress, M. D., Secretary
450 Sutter Street
San Francisco, California

Dear Doctor Kress:

From the facts set forth in the unsigned copy of the letter which accompanied yours of October 4, we judge that the individual is violating the Business and Professions Code, relating to the practice of medicine, in that she is prescribing for ailments of the human system, regardless of whether it is a diet or a medicinal preparation.

We would appreciate your sending us the name of the individual referred to.

Very truly yours,

C. B. PINKHAM, M. D.,
Secretary-Treasurer.

Concerning Five-Year Cures of Cancer.

(COPY)

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

To the Editor:—In 1922 the American College of Surgeons appointed a Committee on the Treatment of Ma-

lignant Diseases by Surgery, Radium, and X-Rays (now known as the Cancer Committee). This committee collected and analyzed records of cases of cancer of the cervix and breast, and published the results. In 1932 the College extended this phase of the work and since then has accumulated records of thirty thousand five-year cures of cancer of various organs. In the meantime the importance of accurate and complete records has been impressed upon the cancer clinics which have been established and upon the medical profession generally. . . .

It is now desired to add to the College cancer archives records of as many as possible five-year cures of cancer, and contributions to its cancer archives are again being solicited from surgeons and radiologists who treat cancer cases, whether in cancer clinics or not. Abstract cancer record forms have been evolved by the College and their use is widespread. The use of these forms ensures the recording of information that is essential for the purposes of clinical research, including an appraisal of methods of treatment. To be of sufficient value for clinical research the records should be furnished on the forms recommended by the College, or their equivalent, and the College will provide such forms on request. The results of such analyses and studies of their cases as have been made by individuals, hospitals, and clinics will be a particularly valuable and welcome addition to the College archives. . . .

Large hospitals and clinics which treat many cases of cancer are requested to designate the appropriate individuals on their staffs who are especially qualified to present records of cancer of different organs, as in such institutions the work may be exclusively departmentalized. In order that an analysis of the records may be made and an announcement of an impressive addition to our thirty thousand cures may be presented at the Clinical Congress of the College to be held in Chicago, October 21 to 25, 1940, it is requested that the records be submitted for this year not later than September 15, 1940. From year to year this activity will be continued and annual contributions will be solicited.

40 East Erie Street, Chicago.

Very truly yours,

(Signed): BOWMAN C. CROWELL,
Associate Director.

Concerning Acquisitions in Lane Medical Library.

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THE STANFORD UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

CALIFORNIA

October 19, 1940.

Dr. George H. Kress
Secretary, California Medical Association
Four Fifty Sutter
San Francisco, California

Dear Doctor Kress:

Thank you for your good letter of October 15.

In accordance with your suggestion, future issues of our list of selected acquisitions at the Lane Medical Library will be sent to the various county medical societies and to the larger hospitals.

We plan to print four hundred copies of the next issue. This list seems to be meeting a real need.

Cordially yours,

NATHAN VAN PATTEN,
Director.